WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Marijuana legalization initiatives - Who's on first?

Two groups in Washington State at odds over cannabis reform

Steve Erickson

The War on Drugs is a failure. And based on where the Drug War money goes, what illegal drug the most money is spent on, and what the most prisoners of the Drug War are arrested for, it's pretty clear that the War on Drugs is mostly a war on people smoking marijuana. It's been that way since the end of the War on Alcohol, after the nation gave up on its disastrous 13 year experiment in prohibition, with little to show other than newly created super rich multinational criminal gangs and their symbiotic corrupt partners in the age-old marriage of cops and robbers.

With the end of alcohol prohibition, the whole industry that grew up around it needed something new to justify its existence. The politicians needed a new bogey man to be the existential threat to God, mom, and apple pie. William Randolph Hearst needed to eliminate the thriving and established small farm hemp industry that competed with his vast timberlands for cheap fiber. And the alcohol cops, of course, needed a new set of bad guys to justify their existence.

Seventy-five years later, it's a different world. Over one-third of all the people in the US have smoked marijuana and found it didn't turn them into raving lunatics or even jazz musicians. Two living Presidents have 'fessed up, even if it required a comedy routine built around the gag line of "I didn't inhale." The country imports over $100 million in hemp fiber and finished products every year, mostly from Canada, that very sane country to the north. Polling in the last few years consistently shows that a majority of the people in Washington favor legalization of marijuana. And yet, most elected politicians will not risk the wrath of the entrenched Drug War industry or the anti-fun moralists by simply ending the charade. Its still pretty much forbidden for politicians to point out that whether its a full frontal view or just a quick glance, the Emperor is not only stark naked but injuring himself and those around him. Instead, it will be the people who are going to have to act.

> The New Approach Washington's I-502 is a full blown regulatory and taxing scheme.

In Washington, the people have the power of the initiative. To get an initiative on the ballot requires getting at least 10 percent of the registered voters who voted in the last election for governor to sign an initiative petition. Initiatives to the people then go directly on the ballot in the next general election. Initiatives to the legislature go to the legislature, which can adopt the initiative, place it on the next general election ballot for the people to decide, or place its own alternative along with the initiative on the next general election ballot.

In 1998 Washington voters passed Initiative 692 by 59 percent, joining California, Alaska, and Oregon in legalizing medical use of marijuana. But it was not until last year that the first attempt was made to legalize recreational use of marijuana and growing fiber hemp in Washington. Initiative-1068, run by Sensible Washington was straightforward. It simply removed all

▸ **Marijuana,** continued on page 7

Welfare Cuts for Dummies

The human impact of Washington state budget cuts

Marissa Luck

This month, Washington state legislators are discussing various ways to slice and dice the budget. They'll have the power to change lives, to decide who receives health care and puts food on the table, all with the stroke of pen. The problem though is, as one low-income mother aptly pointed out to me, most of the legislators have never experienced what it's like to live in poverty. And the people that actually are impoverished aren't being consulted with either.

"Their voices are often overlooked, unheard," noted Monica Peabody, Director of Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER), an Olympia organization of welfare recipients and their allies dedicated to eradicating poverty. "We continue to work to change that, asking policymakers how they can in all conscience make decisions without hearing from those most affected."

Perhaps, by illuminating the stories of low-income families struggling to live on welfare, lawmakers and readers will begin to understand more about the real, human effects of budget reductions.

Slipping through the cracks: the existing welfare system in Washington state

In 1996, so-called "welfare reform" radically changed how the federal and state governments respond to poverty. As part of the federal effort to "end welfare as we know it," the reform marked the end of welfare as an entitlement, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Department of Health and Human Services (DSHS). Welfare went from being a broad entitlement to a short-term cash assistance program. Remember that the US social safety net didn't just appear out of the goodwill of a few politicians during the Great Depression. Rather, the social safety net, including welfare, Social Security, and unemployment benefits, was

▸ **WELFARE,** continued on page 4

The never-ending story of Olympia's anti-busking law

Dana Walker

Editorial note: The Olympia City Council passed an ordinance restricting busking (street preformances) in 2007. Earlier this year, CIVIL (Citizens in Violation of Illegal Laws) formed with the purpose of getting the ordinance rescinded.

The story thus far: Once upon a time there was a beautiful and happy little village called Olympia. Olympia was a small village that boasted the culture of much larger cities without the drawbacks inherent in living with millions of other people. In addition it was located in an abundantly resourced area. The residents had their disagreements, as people do, but overall everyone was at least tolerant of their neighbors and nearly everyone who lived there were well pleased with their enchanted village.

However, as you might remember from previous reports, a coven of wealthy demagogues combined their power with that of some very wealthy out-of-state wizards and together they tried to cast a spell of 'gentrification' upon our happy and funky little town. They were members of the Church of Supply Side. They began blaming the poor and the destitute for the fact that the Supply Siders had to take everyone's gold away from them. The Supply Siders said that the poor and the destitute of Olympia were dangerous even though there were numerous studies proving that Olympia's poor were amongst the least dangerous in the realm. The Supply Siders turned neighbor against neighbor.

Some looked on in favour. They preferred the false wealth provided by the Supply Siders to the real wealth provided by their humanity.

Others took a different view.

Some brave and daring knights quickly saw the danger and took up the challenge. To arms! To arms! They mounted their steeds, drew their swords — and thus began the Order of the Knights CIVIL! Thus began the Great Olympia Busker Parade Extravaganza Extraordinaire! Armed only with humour, the First Amendment, talent, common sense, and guerilla theatre, the Knights CIVIL stormed the bastille

> It was obvious that no one — the city council, their staff, or the police — knew what the law said. Committee staff handed out a map wherein several more 'busking zones' had been added.

▸ **ANTI-BUSKING,** continued on page 6

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, all volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Ferdinand Bridges
Stan Butler
Marylea Coday
Wally Cuddeford
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Teresa Jennings
Amy Levinson
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Creighton Rose
Fred Schug
Sandia Slaby
Sylvia Smith
Jeff Sowers
Wendy Tanowitz
Pat Tassoni
Tinker Belle
Berd Whitlock
Scott Yoos
Zen Quest

On the front cover:

A view of Occupy Olympia and the Capitol building.

Photo by Berd Whitlock

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
December 16
P.O. Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507
olywip@gmail.com
Proofreading:
December 23
(Be there for the first read!)

ADVERTISING RATES

olywip@gmail.com

7.25″	x	4.75″	. . . $125
4.75	x	4.75″	. . . $83
3.0″	x	4.75″	. . . $52
4.0″	x	2.25″	. . . $34
3.5″	x	2.25″	. . . $30
2.25″	x	2.25″	. . . $20

Special microbusiness deal!
4 months for the price of 3
*** Ask for nonprofit rates**

Proposed legislation to get Washington State on the right path

Compiled by Olympia Coalition for a Fair Budget

Close the Loopholes

This generates revenue and makes our revenue system more fair. Let's start here to find the money to fund essential services.

http://budgetandpolicy.org/schmudget/closing-corporate-loopholes-would-bring-balanced-approach?

Tax the 1%

This raises the revenue we need from folks who can afford to pay. The State of Washington has the most regressive tax structures in the US. It's time to fix that. We demand funds for education, health care and essential services. No one should die in Washington State because the Legislature can't figure out how to establish a fair revenue system. We demand a Fair Tax Act—tax the 1%

Tax Capital Gains in Washington State

A capital gains tax would raise about $1 billion each year.

http://publicola.com/201/11/03/lefty-policy-centers-budget-solution-tax-the-3-percent

Abolish Corporate Personhood

This requires little or no State funding and is a long-term fix which puts us on the right path and provides protection for people and the environment.

movetoamendolympia.org

Create the Washington Investment Trust

This requires little or no State funding and is a long-term fix. We demand good long-term planning and solutions. This bill would create revenue for people and local economies Pass this bill.

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1320

Pass the POWER Act - Rescind recent service cuts

This requires revenue. Rescind cuts to State employees. Rescind service and benefit cuts for the poor. Rescind cuts to education. We must find the money for essential services. This is the right path.

Proposed by POWER: http://www.oly-wa.us/power

Fund the Working Families Tax Rebate

This requires State revenue. We passed it last year, because it is so right and fair. Fund it now! We can find the money.

http://budgetandpolicy.org/reports/the-working-families-tax-rebate

Pass the Dental Access Bill

This requires little or no State funding and offers better access to health care. Authorizes new Licensed Dental Practitioners to help provide safe and effective care for Washington residents.

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1310

EL MACHETE
ILLUSTRATED
CUTTING THROUGH THE BULLSH
ERIC J. GARCIA 2011
DON'T HESITATE! BEAT THAT HIPPIE'S HEAD IN! YOU WANT TO LOSE YOUR JOB!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! YOU HAVE MORE IN COMMON WITH HER THAN YOU DO WITH THE ONE PERCENT YOU'RE PROTECTING!
POLICE

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WIP News Shorts

Scott Yoos: the saga continues

On the cold morning of November 16, friends of Scott Yoos, an intrepid *Works in Progress* member, gathered in front of the Thurston County Courthouse an hour before his omnibus pre-trial hearing was to begin. Each time we stand outside the courthouse, someone comes up to us and tells the story of how they were assaulted by officers with the Olympia Police Department (OPD). On this day, we heard the blood-curdling story of a woman who said she was beaten by officers from the OPD and charged with a crime she denied she had committed. To add insult to injury, she is being charged with assaulting an officer.

Current court schedule for Scott:

Nov 30	10:30 am	Omnibus pre-trial hearing
	9:15 am	Vigil outside
Jan 4	9:00 am	Status (readiness) Hearing
Jan 9	9:00 am	Trial
		Begins with jury selection

For more info, visit Facebook.com and search for Scott Yoos Legal Defense Fund; click on the INFO tab. Or visit www.olywip.org and read the articles in the July and September issues about what happened to Scott.
-Scott Yoos Legal Defense Fund

TC Pro-Net met the occupiers

Saturday, November 19, the Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net) hosted a meeting with key representatives from Occupy Olympia (OO). About 80 people attended --mostly TC Pro-Net members and friends. Speakers from OO gave information on subjects related to food, first aid, media, outreach, housing, and safety. Staff from FUSE Washington and Washington Community Action Network told of their organizing plans for "Occupy the Capitol" events beginning on Monday, November 28, and continuing throughout the week. Close to $900 was raised for OO and an attorney donated funds so that OO could get the technology to live-stream the activities at the Capitol.

After attending the meeting, the Thurston Diversity Council met and selected Occupy Olympia to receive their Annual Human Rights Award for Unique Achievement. The awards ceremony will take place on December 19 (see below). OO folks will be present to receive the award. All are invited.

December 19th, 6:30 pm
Courthouse Complex, Bldg. 1, rm 152
2000 Lakeridge Dr SW, Olympia

Visit occupyolympia.org and occupythecapitol.org, or email TC Pro-Net at <info@tcpronet.org>.

Former US Poet Laureate and wife beaten by UC Berkeley police during Occupy protest

Robert Hass, former poet laureate of the United States, revealed that police recently beat him and his wife during an Occupy protest at the University of California, Berkeley. The 70-year-old Hass says his wife was shoved in the chest and knocked down by an officer shortly after speaking to a young officer about the importance of nonviolence. Moments later, an officer whacked Hass hard in the ribs twice and once across the forearm. Video from the protest shows the beatings occurred shortly after Hass urged police officers not to hurt the students.

Hass is a professor of poetry and poetics at UC Berkeley. He served as poet laureate of the United States from 1995 to 1997. He was awarded the 2007 National Book Award and the 2008 Pulitzer Prize. -- DN!

State says they support Occupy Olympia at Heritage, but compromises safety of Occupy Olympia

Occupy Olympia Associated Press

The state of Washington has maintained that the interests of Occupy Olympia are their own, regarding the rights of the people to gather peacefully expressing their First Amendment rights. However, steps taken by the state under the pretense of public safety are causing harm to the group.

A letter from the Director of Washington State Department of Enterprise services director Joyce Turner, asked the Occupy Olympia group to voluntarily remove their tents from Heritage Park. This letter, dated November 11, 2011, points out that health concerns that were raised prompted her to make this request.

"Enterprise Services is committed to the protection and accommodation of First Amendment free-speech activities on the Capital Campus. That is a paramount responsibility in the department's visitor and citizen access program and as the chief steward of the campus grounds and buildings," says Joyce Turner in the letter addressed to Occupy Olympia. "Enterprise Services has contacted local social-service organizations that are willing to assist those at the park who are in need of or desire access to shelter, food aid and health care."

This month Occupy Olympia paid the Department of Enterprise Services for power consumption at Heritage Park. The protesters were allowed lights for the first aid tent and power to run a coffee pot in the food tent. On November 11, 2011 an order was given by the Department of Enterprise services to cut electricity off from the group. They also cut off the hot water to the restrooms.

On the morning of November 14, the Department of Enterprise Services maintenance supervisor delivered a message from his supervisor saying that Occupy Olympia was to pay for the replacement of all the toilet flushing valves in the men's restroom at Heritage Park. Earlier that morning someone had sprayed paint over the pipes that distribute water to the toilets. A concerned occupier cleaned the paint from the plumbing and valves. Department of Enterprise has not sent Occupy Olympia a bill.

On the record the State claims to support the people's right to peacefully assemble and express their freedom of speech. Some protesters say they do not feel that support.

"As somebody concerned about the safety and health of the people here, keeping us cold and without the ability to have hot drinks is contributing to making people sick. Prohibiting us from building temporary structures to protect us against the weather is just a tactic to drive us out", says peaceful protester Wendy Hamlin. "Apparently it's okay to sleep in a doorway by yourself, but not to gather together in numbers to have political discourse".

Please call the Department of Enterprise Services, Christine Gregoire's office, and *The Olympian* to demand that the electricity and hot water be returned to those exercising their first amendment right. Make them understand that Occupy Olympia is trying to empower the State and its people by preventing our federal coffers from being exploited by corruption being allowed by our own federal government.

TC PRO-NET
THURSTON COUNTY PROGRESSIVE NETWORK
Plug-in
to YOUR progressive community!
Sign-up for the *TC Pro-Net Picks* events newsletter
www.tcpronet.org

Washington State Enterprise Services Communications - 360 407 9211
The Olympian Newsroom - 360 754 5420
Christine Gregoire - 360 902 4111

Occupy Olympia declares tents as core message

This is a copy of the letter that was hand delivered to the office of the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services, 1500 Jefferson St. at 4:50pm on November 13, 2011.

Dear Ms. Turner,

We are Occupy Olympia. We are peaceful people, and we love this land. We care enough to take critical action on behalf of 99 percent of our citizenry.

We appreciate the fact that the Department of Enterprise Services wishes to, and is willing to accommodate our freedom of speech interests. It is critical that this protection be honored.

The tents in Heritage Park make a statement for the entire world to see. The tents are our core free speech message. We are occupying with great visibility to get this message across with simplicity. Many of us are guided by the spirit of Mahatma Ghandi and Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in our peaceful protest, exercising our First Amendment rights.

Through the visibility of our tents, we send the message that the 99 percent will not be ignored. We are working people, we are the unemployed. We are homeowners. We are the homeless, the poor, veterans and the disabled. Most of all, we are the people, and we stand united. We are people who are taking action against apathy and standing up for what is right in the name of social justice.

We will continue to work with you to protect these free speech interests represented by our tents, and stand with you in standing up against the greedy destruction caused by the few.

Our tents send a message of solidarity and symbolize this message in a very strong visual manner.

Yours Truly, Occupy Olympia

TESC DIVEST UPDATE

The Year in Campus Divestment so Far

TESC Divest has been as active as always in the first quarter of the 2011-2012 academic year at Evergreen. This piece is an overview of events and campaigns we have taken part in so far this year.

The Maia Mural Brigade

From October 31st to November 6th, the Student Gallery at Evergreen hosted an exhibit of the murals painted by the Maia Mural Brigade in the Gaza Strip. The brigade painted murals on water purification units in the area, focusing on environmental justice, and specifically water rights. "Maia" is the Arabic word for water. Some of the murals also touched on international solidarity, including a mural of Rachel Corrie.

The Brigade also held an event at Traditions on November 1st to report back on their experiences in Gaza, as well as in the West Bank, where they briefly traveled. The group includes four members of the Olympia community: Hilary Hacker, Alicia Martinson, Andrew Meyer, and Joanne Osband.

The Art of Living

On November 6th, the Evergreen Foundation hosted its annual Art of Living auction to raise money for the scholarships it provides. While the auction went on in the lobby of the Evergreen library, activists from TESC Divest stood outside and tried to raise awareness of an important issue: the Foundation invests its money with the University of Washington system, which invests in companies that profit from Israel's occupation of Palestine. While Evergreen itself is slowly moving towards the implementation of an ambiguous "socially responsible investment policy," the Foundation shows no signs of budging – despite the fact that 79.5% of the Evergreen `student body voted, in Spring Quarter of 2010, in favor of a resolution demanding that both the college and the Foundation divest from companies benefitting from the Israeli occupation. Students also voted by 71.8% to bar Caterpillar, one of the companies the UW invests in, from campus, and the Geoduck Student Union unanimously passed a resolution supporting both votes and directing the Board of Trustees to respond in a timely fashion. Of course, the Evergreen community has another reason to oppose investment in companies which profit from Israel's occupation of Palestine, especially Caterpillar: Evergreen student Rachel Corrie was murdered by an Israeli soldier driving an armored bulldozer made by Caterpillar as she protected a Palestinian home from demolition.

The activists handed out fliers about the Foundation's failure to support human rights and campus democracy to those walking in and out of the auction. With the headline "The Art of Living Under Occupation," and decorated with a bloody splash in a grisly replication of the artwork on the official Art of Living banner, the flier spelled out the basic objections to the policies of the Evergreen Foundation. Activists also made sure to emphasize that they were not attacking the Foundation or its donors, and that they were grateful for the scholarships that the Art of Living helped to fund. Nearly all of the interactions between the activists and the donors were polite and positive, and the few instances in which they were treated rudely were more than outweighed by several other instances in which activists had long and constructive conversations with donors, artists who had pieces up for auction, and other community members.

Occupy Olympia, devastated by wind and rain, picks up the pieces

Monte Katzenberger

November 14, 2011 -- A siege of harsh weather conditions rips down tents and destroys order at the Occupy Olympia protest, leaving protestors in general disarray. The spirits of the occupiers remains intact as they unite to put their camp back together once again. "It is inspiring to see so many people stepping up to help put this place back in order", says a man identifying himself as Dave. "I think people here know that we all have to contribute."

It has been nearly one month since this group began its occupation of Heritage Park. Aside from problematic weather conditions, they have been faced with complications brought on by State procedures as well as the need to develop processes for what they call the "Peace and Safety Committee" to make the area they occupy safe.

Today people gathered to collect wet blankets, pick up trash, and reassemble tents for their community. They may be from different walks of life, but for now, they walk a common path.

KING 5 News was at the scene early this morning taking photos of the camp as it lay in half disarray.

It is unclear what is in store for this dedicated bunch of concerned citizens, but if anything is for certain, it will take a bit more than wind and bureaucracy to still their actions.

Bank of America locks their doors to customers during business hours

OOAP, November 10 --Downtown Olympia Bank of America crumbled under the weight of seven protestors and one facebook page. Occupy Olympia protesters successfully shut down Bank of America on Thursday in an attempt to draw attention to the fact that Bank of America values monetary gain over the lives of the customers which it farms. Bank of America customers walked away in frustration as they realized they were unable to conduct their business at their local branch.

99% will be at the state capitol starting November 28

OOAP--Occupy Olympia will bring the 99% to our state capitol starting November 28 and lasting until lawmakers decide to stand up for Washington families. After cutting $10 billion in the past three years, lawmakers now want to cut another $2.7 billion--and our representatives will pretend that they can't do anything about it. The all cuts approach continues to place the burden for balancing the budget squarely on the 99% while requiring no sacrifice on behalf of corporations and our wealthiest citizens.

If our elected officials won't provide for the relative security and basic needs of the 99% during a time of increasing need, then they will get an eviction notice.

Our elected officials have called a "special" session to slash funding for our schools, our healthcare and our community services. We call on the Occupy Movement in Washington state to converge on the Capitol on Nov. 28th to stand up and fight. If the Governor and Legislators won't prioritize human need over corporate interests, then we will bring the many to Olympia to serve notice. The days of politics as usual are over.

Learn more at http://occupyolympia.org/nov-28th-action-week/

▸ **Welfare for Dummies,** cont. from page 1

something that working-class people earned after years of organizing and protest, Savvina Chowdhury, Professor of Political Economy at The Evergreen State College, reminded me. The clipping away of the safety net isn't just balancing budgets; it's slowly dismantling the hard-earned protections working-class people struggled to put in place.

The original welfare program that had been in place since 1935 was replaced by a slimmed-down welfare program called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The federal government dispenses funds in the form of a TANF block grant to states that then decide how funds are allocated. Washington's program, WorkFirst, highlights the need for parents to find a job. In order to receive assistance, parents have to look for work, attend job-training classes, meet with caseworkers, and can be penalized if they don't accept their first job offer. People do this all while juggling their lives, children, disabilities, and various transportation challenges. If they don't follow these requirements, they're sanctioned and eventually cut-off from receiving benefits.

Monica describes TANF as a "stop gap" or emergency fund for families hit with hard times. TANF recipients are eligible for food assistance, state child care, and health care through Medicaid. Although these form vital resources for vulnerable families, the so-called *welfare reform* coupled with the ongoing budget cuts have torn that safety net, creating holes so large that many people inevitably, slip out of reach.

Take for instance, Bethany, a 60 year-old grandmother who contacted POWER a few months ago.* Bethany's daughter is a mother with four children. She has a mental illness and is relatively functioning but not enough for employers to hire her. She's been looking for work for five years, and still hasn't found anything. Now she's being kicked off of TANF because of the new five-year lifetime limit.

Federal requirements place a five-year lifetime limit on TANF grants but has certain exemptions that create some flexibility; states can decide whether they want to use part of the federal block grant towards allowing 20% of its TANF recipients to continue receiving benefits beyond the five-year limit. Washington state was one of the states that participated in this exemption, "recognizing that not every family is ready to work or able to find a job", Monica noted. But in February this year, the state removed its exemption in order to reduce the budget. This ended benefits for nearly 6,000 families. Grandma Bethany's daughter was one of those people. "We went to the Social Security Aministration, applied, got denied, applied, got denied over and over and what it comes down to is they say she's not sick enough." As in, she's not disabled enough to qualify for additional benefits. Now, Grandma Bethany is taking care of the children and is worried about how she'll be able to continue providing for them. Bethany used to be looking forward to retirement, but now she doesn't think that's going to happen anytime soon.

"I have worked since I was 14, paying into this system," Bethany wrote. "Both my parents worked forever, paying into the system and both died in their 60s before ever receiving their social security." She was shocked, "When my daughter needs a little bit of help, they deny her. Shame on our government leaving a whole generation of young people with nothing."

"The folks [like Bethany's daughter] who are being cut off from receiving welfare at the five-year mark are people who can't find jobs," Monica pointed out. "They're not being kicked off because they aren't cooperating; they're being kicked off because of the time limit. They're generally parents struggling with disabilities who are now left with zero dollars."

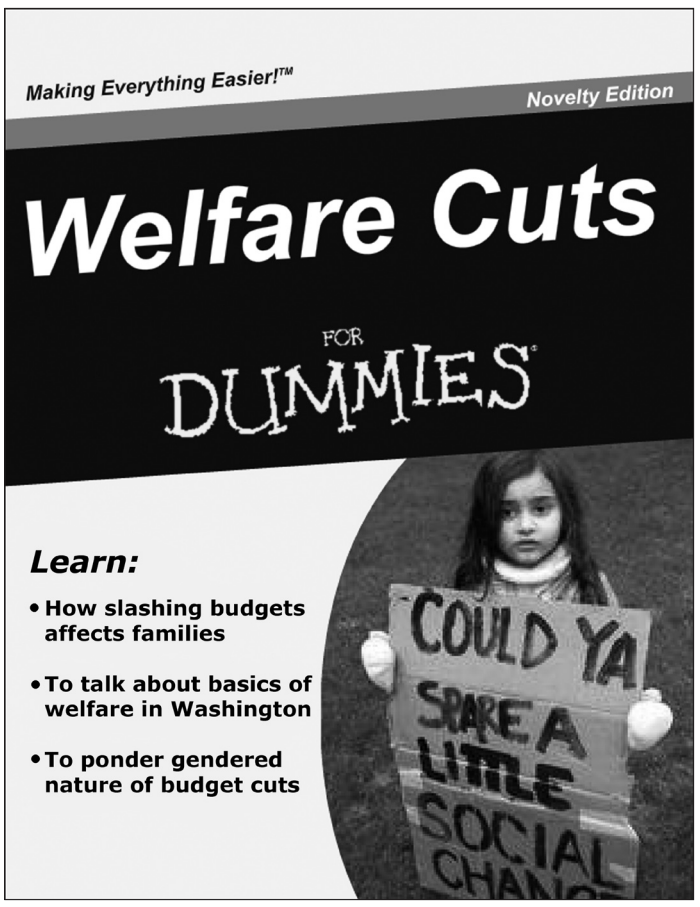
Another mother who approached POWER said her family was also about to be cut off from assistance because of the five-year limit. She recently found her 14-year-old son in his room crying. When she asked him what was wrong, he said he was worried about becoming homeless again.

Cutting an already tattered system

The five-year limit was just one of the budget reductions made to welfare this year. Legislators also made it more difficult for people to qualify for TANF assistance, making it harder for struggling families to access funds at a time when, according to the 2010 US Census, poverty is rising in Washington state. Earlier this year, legislators also reduced the cash assistance given to families by 15%. Now TANF grants only cover about *a quarter* of the basics-needs standard of living, as defined by the state, according to Washington Budget and Policy Center.

"My TANF assistance doesn't cover my rent alone," pointed out Laura, POWER staff member, mother, and Evergreen student. Laura notes that she is fortunate enough to receive financial aid, which is one of the only forms of income that is not counted against a TANF grant. This financial aid has allowed her family to "make it month to month" at least for the time being. With the budget cuts last year, her family sunk deeper into debt. But she says the biggest way she's felt the reductions "...is with the cuts to dental care for adults. Medicaid doesn't even cover dental emergencies any more. I have a lot of tooth decay and have been trying to find ways to pay for some of it before I'm out of school, and looking for a job, which has been hard...Unless I land a decent paying job with benefits right after graduation this June, I fear the worst is yet to come."

The reduced budget also eliminated Disability Lifeline (DL or GA-U), a state-funded program for unemployed people with disabilities. As of October 2011, Disability Lifeline was replaced by three smaller, fragmented programs for basic needs, housing, and medical care. The housing program will only cover half of eligible applicants, leaving the other half to fend for themselves, according to the Statewide Poverty Action Network. Debbie, a woman from Yakima quoted by the Statewide Poverty Action Network, worried about the elimination of Disability Lifeline. She was number 424 on the waiting list for housing, even before DL was replaced by the smaller housing program. "In this kind of poverty," she said, "you gauge your future about 12 hours in advance: where am I going to sleep tonight? What am I going to eat? It feels hard, without a stable housing situation to think in terms of a month, six months, a year or two years down the road."



The tendency to see welfare recipients as unproductive and dependent becomes particularly dangerous in a time of economic recession.

After so many cuts, it's difficult to imagine where else legislators can reduce the budget. "Our safety net is going to shred," Governor Christine Gregoire proclaimed as she announced the November special session, "We're going to have to turn to our faith community... non-profits, and volunteer organizations." But whether private entities can fill the gap is questionable. In a recent article by Judy Lightfoot in the Seattle-based news website *Crosscut*, several local churches and NGOs quoted were all worried about their ability to adequately respond to the swelling numbers of people requesting their services. "The Thurston County homeless shelters for families were full and had waiting lists for the first time throughout the summer," Monica told me. "Shelter providers are horrified at having to turn parents and children away in freezing weather."

The gender of budget cuts

Why, when economic times are tough, are programs for those with less institutional privilege seen as extras rather than essentials? What happened to make welfare change from an entitlement to a temporary emergency fund?

For Savvina Chowdhury, it's part of a worldview that emphasizes market-based work over unpaid work like volunteering and caring for family members (work typically performed by women). Despite the fact that many parents and women on welfare are working to contribute, nourish, and sustain their families and communities, they're seen as "unproductive" and "dependent." This "general lack of empathy for care-givers is compounded by the notion that some people have [of not wanting to] 'pay for other people's children," she describes. This is supported by the myth of the "welfare queen" having lots of babies to eke out money from the system for years on end. (In reality, the average TANF recipient in Washington state stays on welfare for 12.5 months, and the birth rate for families earning less than $20,000 is significantly lower than the national average, according to data from the DSHS and the US Census Bureau.)

The tendency to see welfare recipients as unproductive and dependent becomes particularly dangerous in a time of economic recession when these attitudes are used to justify harsh cuts or "sacrifices" we all must make. The cuts are further rationalized by the myths that poor people have a seemingly limitless capacity to survive or that private NGOs and churches can make up the difference.

Of course, as both Savvina and Monica pointed out, the budget cuts are simply the latest measure of bringing neoliberal structural adjustment home. Savvina believes the US government and ruling class are using the current economic crisis "as a reason to slash funding for social welfare programs... rather than acknowledging that one fundamental reason for budget deficits is the burgeoning inequality in the United States."

"While restoring the social safety net is of utmost importance to meet people's basic needs in the immediate moment, "Savvina contended," as long as the prevailing values of our society are values created and sustained by a capitalist patriarchal system," inequalities will persist. As activists struggle to protect Washington's safety net in the next month, I encourage them to continue envisioning long-term ways to develop a more democratic and sustainable economic system.

* Bethany's name was changed for confidentiality.

Marissa Luck is a community journalist and writer for a local web-design firm. She recenty graduated from The Evergreen State College where she studied international political economy, tutored writing, and served on the editorial collectives of the Counter Point Journal *and* Inkwell.

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Stop oppressive budget cuts that kill communities

Build a local legislative solidarity movement – part one

Carole Willey, BSW

It is time to quickly build a countywide legislative action network for social justice activists and legislative advocates. The timing could not be better with the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement that some just call the 99%. Or some at the Occupy Olympia call it our Village as we all take care of each other in compassionate, caring ways. With three budget cuts in one year and cuts annually since 2007, the timing of OWS is a natural consequence of the greed of Wall Street, the de-regulations of public policies, with the corruption of congress and corporations, and the downfall of America. We cannot hide from the truth!

As truth-seekers, we are aiming to change American history away from empire to earth communities. How do we accomplish our goals? In October our goals were met with many functional tents or committees for: First Aid, Media Team, Food tent (meals are served), our Legislative Collective, etc. Did you know that our First Aid Tent has alternative remedies or that our Legislative Collective approach could create a model for the rest of the country to use in their own legislative sessions?

We, community activists and strategic planners are planning various activities for the coming months and we are here for the long haul!!! Many of us have stopped all projects, stopped looking for work or jobs, some have stopped writing their books or other important work to make Occupy Olympia become successful.

I have laid out my arguments for building a legislative solidarity movement in Olympia in *Works in Progress* – September 2011 issue. Little did I know that Occupy Wall Street would become a worldwide movement. As I see it, there were five differences between Wisconsin and Washington capitol city activists:

1) Better organized with a sustained commitment for action and change;
2) Willing to dedicate themselves to building an unified, advocacy infrastructure;
3) Integrated with an effective consensus building efforts;
4) Dedicated to building a powerful solidarity movement; and
5) Enthusiastic about creating a collective, political consciousness.

The planning of our next 'Week of Action' is in order to build a statewide solidarity movement. After three to four budget cuts in one year, the social justice activists in Thurston County are gearing up for a fight over the new proposed budget cuts. The Democrats and Republicans, the deteriorating two-party system in America, are failing the American people, especially the ones with little or no voice—the vulnerable.

What can change how we do legislative Advocacy?

Interim Activities

Living in Olympia provides you with an wonderful opportunity to have access to 80 legislators, who have cut costs by only maintaining their Olympia legislative offices on the capitol campus. For example, as an environmentalist with concerns for healthcare you can go to members of both House & Senate – Environmental & Healthcare Committees and voice your concerns or talk in opposition or support for bills that will be re-introduced in the 2012 session.

The Occupy Olympia is an excellent opportunity for you and others to visit or attend various events around the state that take a stand for the same position on issues or visit events that blendwith your issues or concerns.

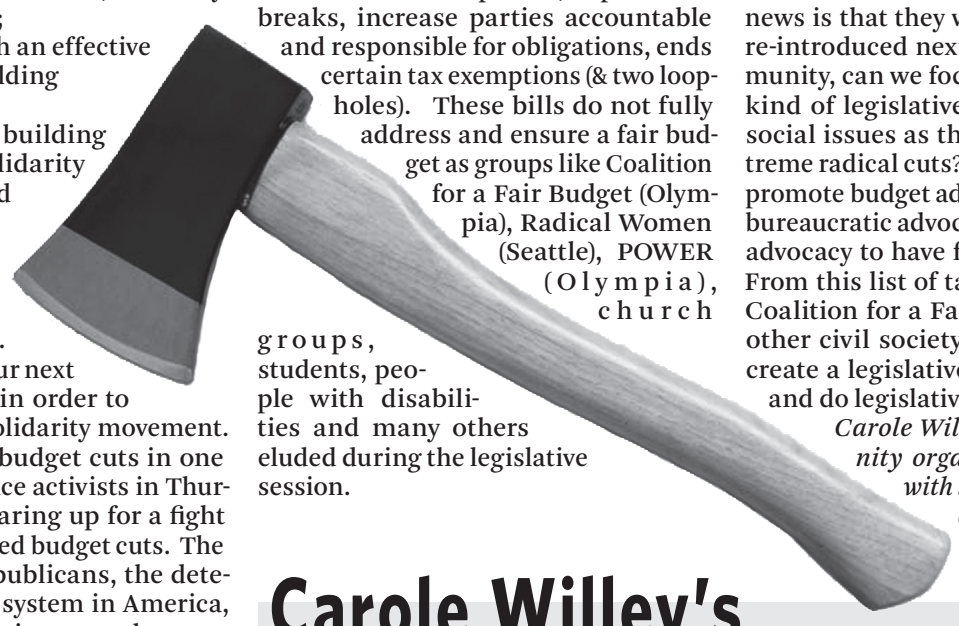
During the interim, you can educate people on the merits of the tax bills. The public and constituents of identified legislators need to know your concerns, so visit them in their legislative districts. Start writing letters now and re-edit with a new twist and fresh information. Keep them engaged on the subject of tax bills so they will be well versed on the bills before Thanksgiving.

In addition to these tasks in the fall or end of the year, organizations and their members should be contacting certain committee chairs and vice-chairs to request hearings for the bills.

Following these steps, your organization will be ready for the 2012 Legislative Session.

After the Week of Action in Washington April 4 – 8th 2011, four tax bills were introduced but with the legislative session mostly over, the movement of the bills was a quarateed inactive session.

The four bills were Senate Bill (SB): SB 5944, SB 5945, SB 5946, & SB 5947. Briefly and respectfully, these bills offered: a referendum for voters to decide closure of tax loopholes, repeals tax breaks, increase parties accountable and responsible for obligations, ends certain tax exemptions (& two loopholes). These bills do not fully address and ensure a fair budget as groups like Coalition for a Fair Budget (Olympia), Radical Women (Seattle), POWER (Olympia), church groups, students, people with disabilities and many others eluded during the legislative session.



Olympian civil society organizations need to come together for legislative action

All of these bills are in one committee and people all across the state should be paying attention to these bills and these committee members. The good news is that they will be automatically re-introduced next session. As a community, can we focus on creating some kind of legislative action network for social issues as they relate to these extreme radical cuts? Can we support and promote budget advocacy and not allow bureaucratic advocacy or interest-group advocacy to have full rein in Olympia? From this list of tax bills, the Olympia Coalition for a Fair Budget and many other civil society organizations can create a legislative agenda to work on and do legislative advocacy together.

Carole Willey is a local community organizer and strategist with legislative and capitol campus expertise.

Carole Willey's Community Challenge to Action

I challenge this community to consider officially forming a local community action network with community action teams to work towards supporting and promoting proactive bills during the legislative interim and opposing suppressive or regressive bills including our state's regressive tax structure. We can challenge the legislature by restructuring the Washington state tax system.

Will we come together on this issue by creating an email-networking system for legislative issues now?

With only one month prior to the beginning of the 2012 legislative session, there is not enough time for the preparation and planning required to successfully have bills considered before the state legislature. We can, though, begin to work toward the 2013 session by first examining and taking stands on legislation that will be presented this coming session. Then in May, after the legislature adjourns, we can begin the process to develop legislative agenda with bills of interest, gaining support of new members and coalitions, and building a solidarity movement along the way. This is my challenge for Thurston County.

A guide for this county-wide action network to establish a timeframe to accomplish legislative goals & objectives to begin fully prepared for the 2013 Legislative Session by late fall it would requires five steps in the coming months.

First Step	Your organization should create a legislative writing committee to draft bills with a summer deadline. Set deadlines for each bill development stage.
Second Step	Continue working during the interim by opposing or supporting bills. Bills that donot pass in 2012 will be automatically reintroduced in January 2013.
Third Step	Another approach would be improving the bill by revising the bill or revising certain sections by utilizing a different course and creating a totally new bill altogether. Creating a strategic plan of two similar bills could be considered and they are known as companion bills.
Fourth Step	Starting early in the fall, find a legislator willing to send our draft bill(s) to either possibly to tactical legislative committee(s) for their review or directly send the bill to the Code Reviser's Office (each legislator uses a preferred process). Appropriate legislative officials would create a formal, official legislative draft. All preliminary work be finished by end of October. By having all these finished by the mid-fall, we will be ready to begin the last phase of work on the bill(s).
Fifth Step	Preparing a bill from initial draft to legislative draft that is ready for Legislative signatures could take a few weeks with the Code Reviser's Office (CRO). CRO will prepare the legislative draft to one of three sheets attached to the bill. Sponsors' signatures - House bill has a blue sheet, Senate has a pink sheet, and state agency has green sheet to collect signatures. First, find a primary sponsor, then the next day, gather other sponsors' signatures so the bill can be dropped in the 'hoppler' and be assigned a bill number and then assigned to a committee. As soon as the bill has a bill number, the bill has its own home page (URL link) and it can be promoted in all your literature, handouts, websites, legislative agenda, etc, so the public can then education themselves.

These five steps are only general. Required steps for each bill to be prepared and finished ideally by December 1. Each step can take weeks or months to complete. Starting early is advised to complete tasks so your organization can promote the bill through networking, events, and planning efforts. An ideal start date should be May 1st for the next legislative session.

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▸ **Anti-busking,** cont. from page 1

of the Supply Siders and overwhelmed them! The Supply Siders wilted in the face of the Righteous and the truths of which they spake. They expressed regret for the error of their ways and implicitly promised relief from our oppression.

However — as seems so often the case with politicians — their words were like a bird that never lands. A couple of months later I got an email from Keith Stahley, Director of Community Planning & Development, saying that they weren't changing the anti-busking law after all.

You would think that after the 'Condos on the Isthmus' disaster and with the rise of the Occupy Movement that the Olympia City Council would have figured out that the days of governments operating for the benefit of a handful of very wealthy assholes and to the very great detriment of everyone else are over. You would think that, anyway, unless you are experienced at dealing with politicians.

After this betrayal the Knights CIVIL — saddened but unsurprised — once again took up the call. Once again we blocked 4th Ave during rush hour with a dancing musical parade. Once again we surrounded the entrance to City Hall performing illegal music to greet the council members as they arrived. Once again we piled into the council chambers to voice righteous indignation at great length and with great eloquence.

This time, though, we were done trying to convince them to do the right thing. This time we were merely delivering a message: We were declaring them irrelevant.

Steve Langer and Jeannine Roe spoke with several of us before the meeting started. I hesitated. After being lied to and betrayed by the Democrats in the state House last fall, I had vowed to never again speak to any politician unless my half of the conversation was being conducted through a bullhorn. At Jeannine Roe's strong insistence, though, I agreed. Strife spoke for CIVIL. I kept my input to a minimum. Ms. Roe and Mr. Langer complained that they had scheduled a Land Use and Environment Committee meeting specifically to discuss the anti-busking laws and that no one had attended. I consulted my calendar and noted that this hearing had indeed been there and I forget why I didn't attend, but I had received no alert from the City and neither had anyone else. And besides, we felt that our input had already been put. At the previous council meeting several of our kids had testified at great length and with superlative eloquence. I had written detailed emails. I had even provided 9th Circuit precedent showing that they weren't to tell us where we could busk; they were to tell us where we couldn't busk and then provide a compelling public interest as to why they were curtailing our First Amendment rights in those particular locations. Mike had also sent detailed emails outlining our position, legal and otherwise. I thought that it had been made clear after the previous Busker Parade that the Council would now do the right thing.

Then Steve Langer insisted that they had revised the anti-busking law even though they hadn't. Steve Langer is the chair of the Land Use and Environment Committee and I have absolutely no idea why he said that. The most negative feedback I have ever received was when I criticized Steve Langer after discovering that he was a leading factor in passage of the anti-panhandling law. Liberals seem to love this guy. A close personal friend of mine whose views hold great weight with me is an ex-patient of Mr. Langer and she likes and respects him. My experience is that he is a very smart and knowledgeable guy in some areas but that he seems to think that he also has expertise in areas wherein he actually knows nothing. I find this to be a dangerous attribute.

Anyway, when the Council meeting started it was, as Jacob noted, déjà vú all over again. Once again several of us very eloquently spoke to the Council on why the anti-busking laws sucked. Tim sang a moving song. Strife rocked us with some blistering rap. However, it was Jacob who directly spoke for CIVIL this time. In no uncertain terms he declared that as far as CIVIL is concerned the busking laws are null and void. He informed them that we are going to encourage people to busk all over 4th Ave and he placed them on notice that CIVIL will be organizing a support network for buskers — hopefully soon with an attorney — specifically to make busting people for busking as legally and expensively problematic as we possibly can — and they already know that we are very good at making things problematic.

Scene for last month's Second Busking Parade. Photo: Wally Cuddeford

> They suggested we compile a list of 'top-ten' busking locations so they could consider adding these to the 'approved busking locations', thus proving they had either completely missed or were choosing to ignore our constitutional and practical arguments as to why the busking laws needed to simply be rescinded.

As a result of our performance, the Land Use and Environment Committee agreed to meet with us on November 21 to discuss the busking laws. At this meeting it was obvious that no one — the City Council, their staff, or the police — knew what the law said. Committee staff handed out a map — that the committee members themselves had yet to see — wherein several more 'busking zones' had been added. We were also given a flyer explaining that we could busk anywhere we wanted as long as we were not within the six foot 'pedestrian zone' that extends from all buildings on the street. We were informed that there was no need for a license, and that the only time a license was required was when a business wanted to allow busking within the six-foot zone, and that the business needed to obtain the license, not the busker.

This did not explain why there was a map showing 'permitted busking zones.' This did not explain why people receive tickets for 'busking without a license.' They explained that the 'designated busking zones' were areas where the six foot rule did not apply, and no one knew why people had received tickets for 'busking without a license.'

Jeannine Roe made the observation that this was all very confusing.

Mike, Strife, Jacob, and Shelly all made the point that disallowing busking in any context other than interfering with pedestrians was unconstitutional and unacceptable and since there were already pedestrian interference laws on the books a separate busking law was unnecessary.

In an effort to placate us, they offered to change sidewalk configurations and even provide some sort of shelter over 'designated busking zones' and they suggested that we compile a list of 'top-ten' busking locations so they could consider adding these to the 'approved busking locations', thus proving they had either completely missed or were choosing to ignore our constitutional and practical arguments as to why the busking laws needed to simply be rescinded.

The conclusion what that there is to be a meeting scheduled sometime soon between city staff and representatives of CIVIL to discuss the matter further.

This holding-feet-to-the-fire business appears to be a constant vigil.

Dana Walker spent most of his life as a wandering troubadour/adventurer and therefore didn't live anywhere in particular for several decades. Since he tended to spend most of his time inside of his own head it didn't really matter anyway. After traveling extensively all over North America more times than he can count Mr. Walker has chosen to settle in Olympia.

Since he was born during a time warp, Mr. Walker does not have an astrological sign. Since he is partially human, Mr. Walker is much too complex to fit into any convenient box or category anyway, (or into any blurb in a newspaper for that matter) and Mr.Walker, in fact, resents such attempts. Mr.Walker suggests that if you wish to know him on a personal level then youshould come and meet him in person.

If you do, it is highly recommended you do not ask what his astrological sign is.

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▸ **MARIJUANA,** cont. from page 1

criminal and civil penalties (except for driving under the influence) for adults possessing, smoking, or growing marijuana or industrial hemp. It was left to the legislature to come up with a regulatory scheme. This was because of the potential conflict with federal law. No matter what the voters in Washington State decide, marijuana and hemp will remain illegal under federal law. Using the US Constitution's commerce and preemption clauses, any attempt by a state to regulate and tax marijuana will surely be challenged by the federal government. All previous judicial precedent supports this pre-emption of state law by the federal government. The Sensible Washington initiative avoided this problem by using the same approach that New York State used in 1923 to end that state's involvement in enforcing alcohol prohibition. The US Supreme Court upheld New York's refusal to enforce federal alcohol prohibition. The same approach was used in the Sensible Washington Initiative. Even if the federal government successfully challenged any law passed by the legislature that regulated and taxed marijuana, the separate repeal by initiative of state prohibition of marijuana and hemp would stand. With no money, no organization to speak of, using only volunteers, and active hostility from the American Civil Liberties Union, Sensible Washington still was able to collect about 2/3 of the 242,000 signatures needed.

Fast forward to the present. Yes End Penalties (YEP) is running the Sensible Washington initiative again, this time as I-505. Like the 2010 effort, YEP has no money or support from the "movers and shakers."

Unless there is a very large infusion of energy, it is doubtful that I-505 will gain enough signatures to get on the ballot. However, Sensible Washington has announced its intention to run a legalization initiative again in 2012.

The Washington Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), upset about the challenge to its turf in 2010 by Sensible Washington, actively opposed that effort. This year, an ACLU creation called New Approach Washington (NAW) is running a big-bucks non-volunteer campaign that seems intended to set up a court showdown with the federal government, a showdown that will be good for fundraising but which will likely fail. If you're approached by someone collecting signatures for I-502, be aware that they're being paid $1 per signature. No grassroots effort here. It looks like NAW will get no more than 1/10 of the signatures it needs from volunteer signature collectors. Of the over $650,000 NAW has raised to date more than 90% is in donations of $10,000 or more.

This year, an ACLU creation called New Approach Washington (NAW) is running a big-bucks non-volunteer campaign that seems intended to set up a court showdown with the federal government, a showdown that will be good for fundraising but will likely fail.

The NAW initiative is a full blown regulatory and taxing scheme. If it passes it will surely be challenged by the federal government and struck down unless the US Supreme Court throws out 200 years of precedent. While purporting to treat marijuana like alcohol, it is far more draconian than that. While you can brew your own beer or make your own wine, I-502 continues to criminalize small scale marijuana growers. Home growing will remain illegal. And while there are no laws against having more than a single six-pack of beer in your refrigerator, I-502 will prohibit having more than 1 ounce of marijuana. I-502 also establishes blood level limits on marijuana breakdown products that are so strict that someone who has not smoked in over a week would be considered to be "driving under the influence" and would lose their license and go to jail. Stepping back from these details, the licensing and distribution scheme required by I-502 would result in the immediate takeover and monopolization of the marijuana and hemp industries by established corporations. Unfortunately, if I-502 passes, it will likely not survive the inevitable court challenge. Even more unfortunately, it if does survive the court challenges, the result will be an industry that is controlled exclusively by large corporations.

In November 2012 Washington voters will probably have the choice of voting on two different marijuana legalization initiatives. NAW's I-502 will certainly be on the ballot. With paid signature gatherers and over $650,000, I-502 will certainly get enough signatures. YEP's I-505 could make the ballot, though its looking unlikely. But if it doesn't, Sensible Washington's next volunteer driven attempt will likely succeed. Voters will then have the choice between adopting the NAW corporate scheme of "making a statement" that is noble, but will not stand up to the inevitable legal challenge, or voting for the YEP or Sensible Washington initiative that simply gets the state out of the marijuana prohibition enforcement business. After 75 years of failure, its time to declare victory and end the War.

Steve Erickson is a representative of Yes End Penalties, which is currently gathering signatures for its Initiative -505.

Information about I-505 and an electronic copy of the petition can be downloaded at:

yesendpenaltieswa.org/initiative

yep.somee.com/RequestPDF.aspx

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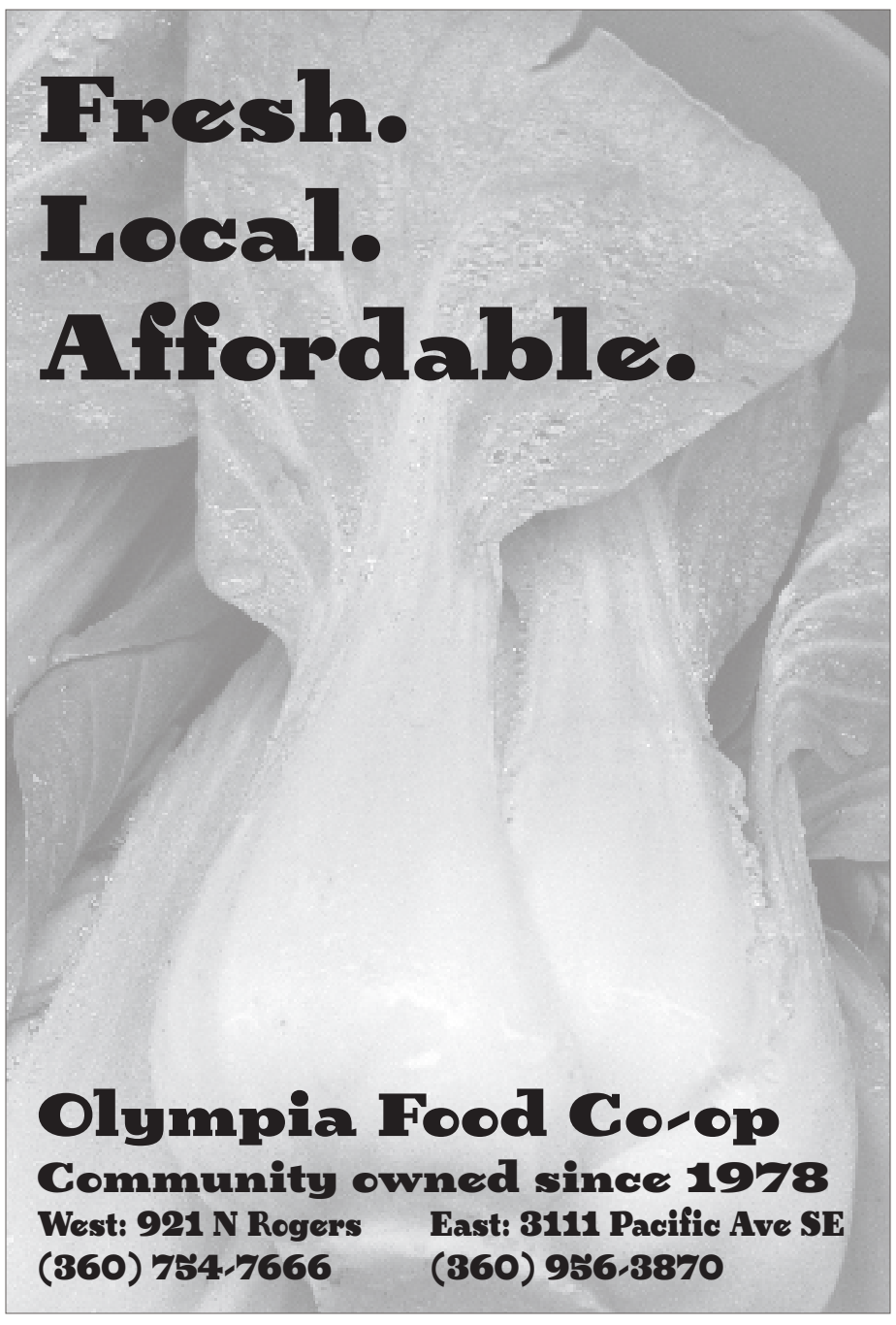

The New Approach Washington Math

The current value of one pound of medicinal cannabis from grower to dispensaries is about $2800 a pound or $6.25 per gram.

The current value of the same amount of cannabis from dispensaries to medical marijuana patients is about $4480 or about $10.71 per gram.

From $2800 to $4800 is a 70% markup.

If New Approach Washington's Initiative-502 becomes law, another level, in that of a middleman processor, will be required, and, at each level, there will be a 25% tax. The processor and the dispensaries will split the 70% markup to the not necessarily medicinal marijuana, consumer.

With the new tax, the grower's price of $6.25 per gram rises to $7.81 to the new processor. The processor's price to the dispensaries, plus 25% tax, becomes $17.58 per gram.

The dispensaries then sell a gram with their markup and another 25% tax for a grand total of $39.55. The price that medicinal marijuana patients pay will increase almost 400 percent.

A structure like this will only embolden black marketeers to continue their trade and consumers to support them. Even if ending the prohibition cuts the price in half, the public faces double the cost when obtaining product under this structure.

Ending the prohibition of marijuana, which I-502 will not do, will allow competition that will drive prices down, not up. That will put millions of dollars back into the legitimate economy through the hands of the people, not the government. They will have that money to pay bills, taxes and other goods and services that will result in other revenue to the government. They may even choose to save for their children's education or their own retirement.

Washington State legally imports over $200 million dollars in hemp, mostly from China and Canada that is made into legal products that are then sold and taxed.

According to New Approach Washington, another $200 million is spent arresting, prosecuting, incarcerating and probation/paroling approximately 14,000 people a year that may otherwise be working, paying taxes, supporting their families and communities.

What about the children? Does a spouse/partner now have to work a second job to make ends meet? Now there would be both parents less involved with their children who then become at risk youth.

This is the result of our current prohibition. End it and create regulation that will serve the people of Washington, not special interests.

Without even considering new construction and other jobs that would improve our economy, that is a $400 million turn around in the state economy.

Ending prohibition, by passing an initiative such as I-505, will result in less overcrowding in jails and prisons, opening up space for serious offenders we don't seem to have space for now. Police will have to concern themselves with serious crime that might not give them the asset forfeiture money taken from those that have lived lawful lives and as aging find Cannabis a safer alternative to dangerous pharmaceuticals that are our greatest substance abuse issue.

--Yes End Penalties (I-505)

Transcontinental conversation on the Occupation Movement

A discussion of the past, present, and future

Ron Jacobs / Peter Bohmer

Like most other social justice activists I know, I have been following (and taking part in) the Occupy Wall Street movement. The encampment in Burlington, VT was in City Hall Park in Burlington's downtown district for over two weeks. After a tragic suicide in the encampment, the Progressive/Democrat majority city government shut the camp down claiming it was unsafe. In Olympia, Washington, where my fellow dialogist Peter Bohmer resides, the campers are occupying land near the state capitol and have, to this point, managed to work things out with the authorities to avoid conflict. Like Occupy camps everywhere, the status of these camps could change at any time. Indeed, since we began this endeavor, several have been shut down by police and other authorities, usually using the excuse that the camps were unsafe. Yet the continued existence of the movement is certainly changing the nature of certain elements of the political discussion in the United States. This is why Peter and I decided to engage in the dialogue below. Our conversation began on November 5th and ended at around 2 in the morning PST on November 17th.

Peter and I go back over twenty years. The conversation that follows is but one of many we have had since we met. We share it as a springboard for thought and discussion. At the same time, we do not claim any special knowledge and pretend no higher wisdom. We hope that the dialogue is received in the spirit of revolutionary camaraderie.--Ron

Ron Jacobs: Do you remember last spring you said in an email (during the Arab Spring stuff before NATO and Libya) that this could have the same impact as 1968? Can you briefly explain that perception?

Peter Bohmer: I was very inspired by the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt beginning at the end of last year and early in 2011. The growing numbers in the face of murderous repression, the courage, the participatory democratic process of the occupiers, and the call in their statements and in the actual occupation for democracy, economic and social justice really resonated and captivated me.

Movements and uprisings tend to spread within and between nations as people sense there are alternatives to resignation to the status quo and of powerlessness. When I said that I hoped 2011 would also be a world historic year, I thought it was somewhat likely these movements and upsurges would burst forth first in countries where there was growing economic inequality and poverty, where austerity programs were in place, and where the majority of the population had no power over the direction and policies of their country. Places ripe for major rebellion such as Greece, which I had visited in September 2010, where the IMF and the European Union were increasingly calling the shots, and particularly in other nations in North Africa and the Middle East, where the people were following what was happening in the region's largest country.

We are at the beginning of a huge upsurge, a transformative social movement, not just a movement that made a big splash for two months and then fades quickly.

Although the resistance to budget cuts in Washington State where I live was somewhat limited, it is possible that the examples of the occupation in Egypt and the labor-led protests in Madison, Wisconsin, against their Tea Party Governor Scott Walker's frontal attack on State workers and their unions would spread throughout the US.

Ron: And now we have the Occupy movement, which seems to be inspired by the events in Tahrir Square. Despite its indecisiveness in its agenda, it has captured the hopes of many and the wrath of most of the corporate right wing. I have concerns about what I consider a lack of focus, but at the same time there is a part of me that understands that the current political understanding of people in the US would reject something more directed. In fact there are those in the Occupy movement that lump unions right up there with corporations. What this says to me is that they are confusing union leadership with the rank and file, and misunderstanding the role of unions in a capitalist economy, not to mention a lack of awareness of that history. Nonetheless these types of political misconceptions exist. Is the movement a step forward?

Peter: As a result of observation and participation in the still-growing "Occupy Movement," an alternative to the pervasive feelings of powerlessness and resignation are emerging. There has been for quite some time in the United States widespread opposition to the growing inequality of income and wealth, to total corporate control over all parts of our lives, to global warming, to a government that tortures and is totally beholden to Wall Street, to homelessness and losing our homes, to unemployment and underemployment, to growing debt and poverty, to the imprisonment of over two million people, to militarism and endless wars, and this list is incomplete. At the same time, resistance-- although greater than reported in the mainstream media--has been somewhat limited and ineffective. The importance of this movement is that active resistance is increasingly being seen as valid and the right thing to do. There is a growing feeling beyond the occupiers that hopelessness and escape, or maybe voting for the lesser of two evils, are not the only options.

Common to the growth of powerful social movements have been people who resist the status quo and take a stand. They, by their bold actions, strike a chord with much large numbers of people. This causes change, for at least a period of time, in the organization and activities of their lives. Their values and ideology also change into a less self-centered, me-first system of belief and towards solidarity and cooperation with a commitment to economic and social justice. This is happening right now; something is in the air.

Having a physical space which people occupy makes this movement visible and possible for new people to join it. In Olympia, Washington, it is creating dialog and community between homeless people, young people, anarchists and other activists, retired people, etc. (Many belong to more than one category.) Although in Olympia and in many other places there are no visible demands, and somewhat limited discussion of what kind of society we want and how to get there, or what we want in the short and medium run, occupiers' needs for food, shelter and increasingly health care are being addressed, and increasingly met, as is the question of self-government. To say this occupation is not political is a very narrow definition of political.

Ron: If the Occupy movement is at the forefront of left-oriented popular struggle, how do we move forward? What might forward look like?

I've been in a few occupation/liberation actions over the years, as have you. In fact, I think we were involved in two or three together. Anyhow, whether it was Peoples Park in 1979, a campus building sometime in the past few decades, or the Occupy encampments in our respective towns, the fact is these actions usually end. Many of the ones I was involved with ended with some kind of compromise agreement between the bureaucrats involved and the occupiers. Peoples Park ended with a temporary truce and the park is still a park. As I involve myself and observe the Occupy movement, I am also doing what I can to make it into something beyond the occupations. However, I am not sure what. We saw one possibility at the end of the Oakland Strike day when folks took over the foreclosed Travelers Aid building in Oakland's downtown. Although the timing was obviously wrong (it's not a good idea to occupy a building while the cops are down the street ready to kick ass), the impetus behind the action makes a lot of sense. In fact, I have been a part of discussions about squatting foreclosed buildings here in Vermont and also with folks online in other parts of the world.

A sidebar to this is how long can the occupations remain meaningful before they become like so much graffiti in the minds of the supportive observer?

Peter: As of today, November 7. 2011, most of the occupations are maintaining their momentum. This is a very positive accomplishment. For example, in Olympia, many people in Occupy Olympia are looking ahead to November 28, 2011, to confront the Washington State Legislature when it is being called back into a special session by Governor Gregoire, a Democrat, in order to make further cuts in a State budget that has already severely reduced needed spending for health care, for education at all levels and for poor people. Occupy Olympia is committed to maintaining the occupation of a downtown park at least until the legislative session ends and possibly beyond.

Nonetheless, as Michael Albert pointed out in his *ZNET* article (Occupy to Self-Manage), in occupations and the related general assemblies, the decision-making group for most occupations, tend to decline over time in numbers and enthusiasm. So it is key to bring in new people and create an atmosphere that is welcoming to them so that we do not wither away. Let us not unconsciously exclude people who have not been part of the left or activist communities. It is also important that we use our occupied sites as a base for actions and education to those outside.

We need to consciously make movement building one of our goals in this phase of the Occupy Movement. This means developing organizations, institutions, and people who have a deepening analysis and critique of capitalism, with growing capacity and skills to confront this system, and to put forward and win non-reformist reforms. Hopefully this will last beyond these set of occupations. By non-reformist reforms, I mean reforms that meet people's expressed needs, build our understanding of the limits of capitalist reform, and increase our capacity to struggle for more fundamental and radical transformation of this oppressive and unsustainable society. For example, Occupy Olympia is setting up tents where there will be free medical care, traditional and non-traditional, on-site. This will meet an important need and also point towards a system of free and universal health care as a basic human right. A next step could be to demand or occupy permanent indoor space to be used as a free health clinic providing quality health care, and to educate the broader community that healthcare should not be a commodity.

I like the idea of creating housing by squatting in unoccupied buildings as you suggested in Oakland. Whatever we do must be done in a way that large numbers of people beyond the occupation will understand and support. That will increase the likelihood that if there

▸ **DISCUSSION,** continued on page 9

EL MACHETE
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▸ **Discussion** cont. from page 8

is police and government repression, our movement will grow rather than become isolated.

Overcoming defeatism and resignation and furthering community and beliefs in the importance of collective action is happening. This is a great start. We do not have the power during this period of the "Occupy Movement" to create a participatory socialist society, nor even to seriously reduce the obscene inequality of income and wealth in this country. Hopefully, some limited short-term goals will be won.

It is a long struggle. Building healthy networks, institutions, and organizations within and between communities and cities will create the basis for a more powerful and visionary occupy movement in the future. It will make this current movement worth the time, effort and commitment of so many throughout this country and beyond. Most of the specific occupations of space may come to a close but the movement can and should continue.

Ron: There are those that say part of the reason the movement of the 1960s and early 1970s was able to be as effective as it was is because the establishment media covered it. Most the time, the coverage was negative, but the coverage itself spread the word and highlighted injustice. Since then, most of the movements against capitalism and its symptoms (war, poverty, environmental degradation, etc.) have been mostly ignored by that press. Occupy seems to be changing that. Perhaps it is because there are so many young middle class people involved, but nonetheless, the coverage is there. Consequently, the numbers may not be as big, but the message is reaching further, at least for now. Meanwhile, there are the new Internet social media. What's your take on the role that these various media play today?

Peter: Certainly in the 1960s and early 1970s, the mass media coverage of the protests, Black Freedom, anti-Vietnam war and the TV images of the U.S. war against Vietnam, and of the women's liberation movement contributed to the growth of these movements. Probably even more important was a vibrant "underground" and radical press such as the Black Panther Party newspaper which was national, the *Guardian* which was also a national weekly newspaper and papers in many, many cities such as the *Berkeley Tribe*, the *Old Mole* (Cambridge, MA), the *San Diego Street Journal* and *OB Rag* (San Diego), and the *Fifth Estate* (Detroit). There were also important papers by the women's liberation movement such as *Off Our Backs*, and the GI movement and a news service that provided news and graphics for these papers, Liberation News Service. These papers had significant circulation. They were an integral part of the new left and other movements of that period. Today these types of movement papers are few and far between although for example in Olympia, *Works in Progress*, plays that role to some extent. On the other hand, social media, particularly Facebook and Twitter, play an important role in spreading the word about actions although providing less context and analysis than the "underground" papers of the '60s and early '70s. Democracy Now! today plays a very important and positive role in providing an alternative analysis to the mainstream media and in covering social movements such as the Occupy movement. So do websites such as *Dissident Voice, Counterpunch*, *Znet*, and *Alternews* (among others). They lack some of the boldness and creativity of that earlier "underground press" but are very valuable. We need to tell our own stories.

Social media, particularly Facebook and Twitter, play an important role in spreading the word though providing less context and analysis than the "underground" papers of the '60s and early '70s.

The mainstream media has given a lot of coverage to Occupy Wall Street and the growing national movement. Although much of it is negative, it does, as you say, spread the word and helps publicize the obscene economic inequality in the United States. I am not sure why it has gotten so much coverage. Its novelty may be a factor.

Ron: These last several months of worldwide anger organized against the neoliberal capitalist economy reminds me of a number of historical events. 1968 is but one. The Occupy movement is somewhat reminiscent of the IWW's free speech crusade when their insistence on exercising their free speech rights led to their setting up soapboxes on street corners throughout the US West. The subsequent arrests and harassment by police exposed the myth of free speech in the US. Could this be that spectre that Karl Marx wrote about? Immanuel Wallerstein wrote in his book Antisystemic Movements about the years 1848 and 1968 as failed revolutions that ultimately changed the world's consciousness in greater ways than the revolutions that preceded them (France 1789 and Russia 1917). "The fact that they were both unplanned and therefore, in a profound sense spontaneous, explains both facts," he writes, "the fact that they failed and the fact that they transformed the world." Perhaps the events of the past year and a half--from Greece to Egypt to Tunisia to Britain to Europe and North and South America--will be perceived similarly. I think it is much too early to tell. In the meantime, there is a growing surge of calls to converge for a number of actions in the spring.

Peter: We are at the beginning of a huge upsurge, the beginning of a transformative social movement, not just a movement that made a big splash for two months and then fades quickly. There will be setbacks. From what I saw and read, the demonstration in New York, today November 17th, was huge and powerful. The occupation of land may be winding down because of repression, the weather, and fatigue, but hopefully the Occupy movement will find new forms and really blossom in this coming spring. The high unemployment and poverty rates in the United States are not going to improve and may get worse. They are going to worsen in Greece, Italy, Portugal, Ireland, Spain and many other countries. The causes for action are not going to go way, nor are the anger and the need for collective action. We are part of a global movement. That many blame capitalism as the problem, and not just the banks, is very exciting. Also what is beginning to happen is a growing realization that anti-racism and the need for all forms of equality (economic, gender, racial, LGBT) is central both inside the movement and in the greater society.

The coordinated repression of many of the occupations, e.g., NY, Portland, Oakland, is clearly connected to the fear that much of the economic and political elites have of the potential power of this movement. Because of the widespread anger and the resonance this movement has with growing numbers of people, police brutality, instead of scaring people, has increased participation. Bold and creative actions need to continue. So does popular education of participants in these occupations and of the rest of the 99% in the causes of the economic and social crisis and of all forms of oppression. Equally important is further discussion of what kind of society we want and how to get there in the short, medium and long run. We need to consciously build organizations and institutions that can improve people's lives now, particularly those suffering the most, while also building the capacity to revolutionize this society.

Because of the widespread anger and the resonance this movement has with growing numbers of people, police brutality, instead of scaring people, has increased participation. Bold and creative actions need to continue.

The movement is much bigger than those who have been occupying various parks and sites. It includes those who have in ways, big and small, contributed to it, e.g., bringing food down to the occupiers, discussing and supporting it at union meetings. One challenge here in Olympia, and the Pacific Northwest more generally, is to be more inclusive. We need to reach out to more people who identify with the goals of the Occupy Movement but do not feel comfortable at the sites or with participating in marches or direct actions. We need to welcome them and to listen.

It is a very exciting time to be alive. There is something in the air that I haven't felt for a long time. In spring, 2013 I intend to co-teach a full time program at the Evergreen State College comparing and contrasting the liberation and social movements of 1968 to 2011 in the US and globally. There will be a lot to examine for 2011 and we still have six weeks to go. I am confident 2012 will be hotter than 2011.

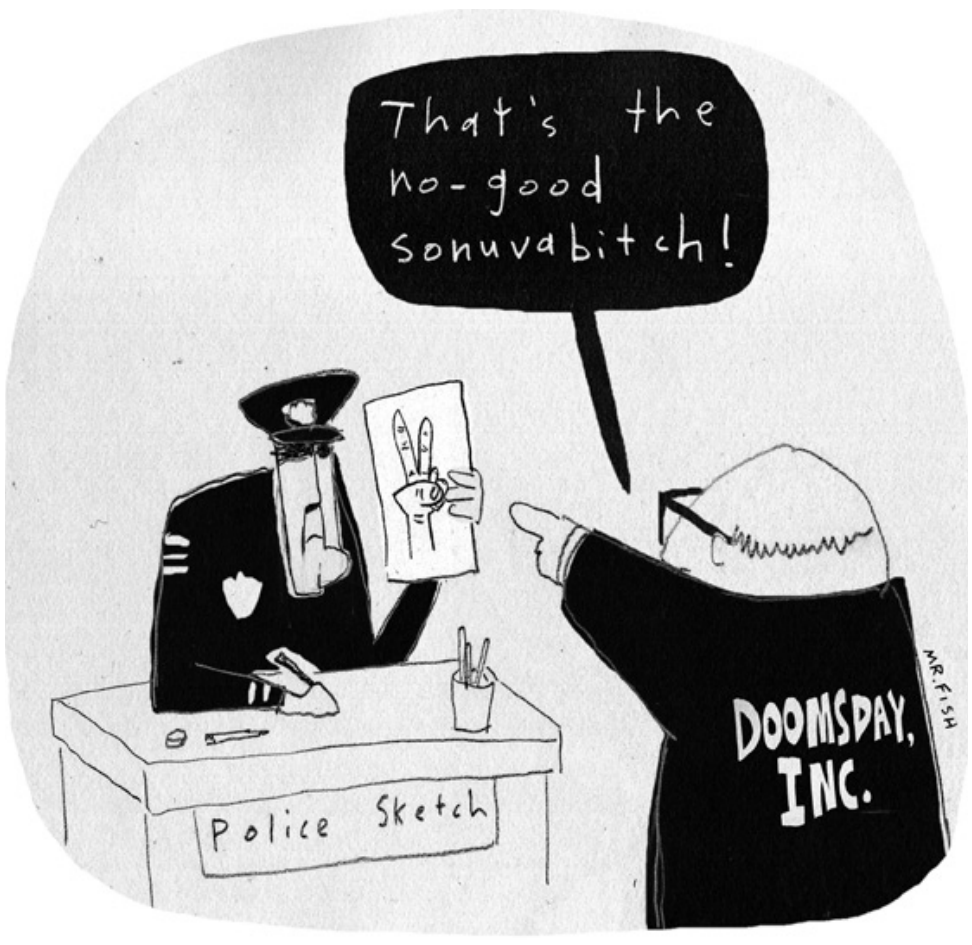
Power to the People!

Ron: I myself think it's a bit early to tell if this is the spectre that Karl wrote about or if Wallerstein is correct. The underlying politics of the movement are too muddy right now. As far as I have seen, the relationship between the US wars and occupations and the 1% has only begun to become part of the conversation. This relationship needs to be addressed and brought to the forefront of the movement.

There are those in the movement who are anti-leftist (and I don't mean the various non-left anarchists) and many more that haven't consciously considered left politics. However, I can't help but agree with you when you say it is an exciting time to be alive. This is especially the case after the events of N17 in New York, Portland, Oregon, Los Angeles and elsewhere. Indeed, although the numbers were smaller here in Burlington, VT., the spirit of resistance and hope present across the nation and in Greece and Italy on N17 permeated the march and teach-in here as well. I concur: Power to the People!

Peter Bohmer has been an organizer and participant in the struggle for social and economic justice since the 1960s. In recent years, his political activities have taken him to Venezuela, Cuba, Greece and a number of US cities. He teaches political economy and has been a faculty member at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington since 1987 and is a contributor to Z Magazine.

Ron Jacobs is the author of The Way the Wind Blew: A History of the Weather Underground *and* Short Order Frame Up. *His collection of essays and other musings titled* Tripping through the American Night *is now available and his new novel is* The Co-Conspirator's Tale. *He is a contributor to* Hopeless: Barack Obama and the Politics of Illusion, *forthcoming from AK Press. He can be reached at: ronj1955@gmail.com.*



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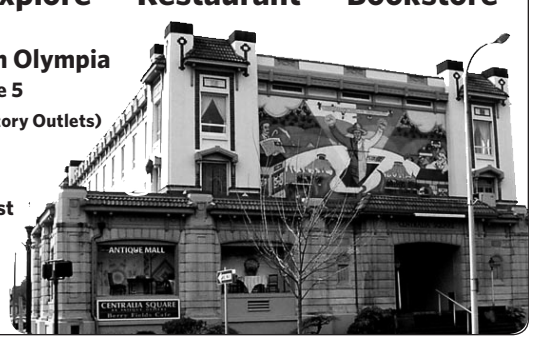


An Empire State of Mind

OWS, police brutality, and the War on Terror

Falguni Sheth

Over the last week, among the multiple images that horrified and angered the American public, two stood out: One is an image of Dorli Rainey, an 84 year old protester at Occupy Seattle with milk dripping from her face after being pepper-sprayed by a uniformed Seattle officer. Another is the video clip of a uniformed Davis, California police officer pulling out two cans of pepper-spray and directing it at the faces of non-aggressive, stationary student protesters at UC Davis. Both images have gone viral. I suspect this is because there is something so grotesque and terrifying about watching a uniformed officer pull out a can of chemicals that are designed to seriously, if temporarily, cripple and paralyze the its victims. Watching the lurid spectacle happen in real-time has the effect of paralyzing the viewer.

Occupy Seattle's Dorli Rainey

Besides the outrage that these events provoked, several questions have been raised, even by those who have followed most global political news over the last decade: "What are they thinking? Why these heavy-handed tactics? Why is it okay to assault people instead of arresting them?" And others, perhaps without knowing why, are horrified, but not at all surprised. Why not?

These heavy-handed tactics should come as no surprise to any of us. The ability to assault people prior to—no, instead of arresting and charging them with crimes—has become an explicit staple of United States foreign policy since the passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, on Oct. 22, 2001. That bill, some 350 pages long and written over much longer than a month's time, authorized the state police and army forces to wiretap, investigate, search and detain individuals as part of a pre-emptive strategy to seek out "suspected terrorists," that is, before they could do damage to "US" (pun intended). Augmented to this was GW Bush's presidential endorsement of torture and rendition strategies, along with the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan under the auspices of waging a "War on Terror" and the associated military bombings of thousands of people in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (with President Obama's continued support of rendition, the expansion of military drones targeted towards "suspected Al-Qaeda" buildings, and of course, civilians). Tack on Presidential Obama's enthusiasm to assassinate suspected terrorists in lieu of a trial (Osama Bin Laden), even when they are American citizens (Anwar Al-Awlaki and Samir Khan).

What does any of this have to with police brutality in response to peaceful political dissent and protests in NYC, Berkeley, Seattle, Oakland, Davis, and elsewhere around the country? Everything. We are in an "Empire State of Mind," with apologies to Jay Z and Alicia Keyes. We have become conditioned to accept and expect police brutality to be imposed on everyone but "US": African-American men and women; Muslim men and women all over the world, including Western and Northern Europe; Latino migrants in the US. We have also become used to justifying police brutality as directed towards "people who deserve it." This, at bottom, is an Empire State of Mind. An Empire State of Mind is one where those who order and those who carry out the brutalization and murder, can do so with the assurance of complete impunity because they have the approval of political and media elites, and through them, a widespread public.

These heavy-handed tactics should come as no surprise to any of us. The ability to assault people prior to—no, instead of arresting and charging them with crimes—has become an explicit staple of United States foreign policy since the passage of the USA Patriot Act in 2001.

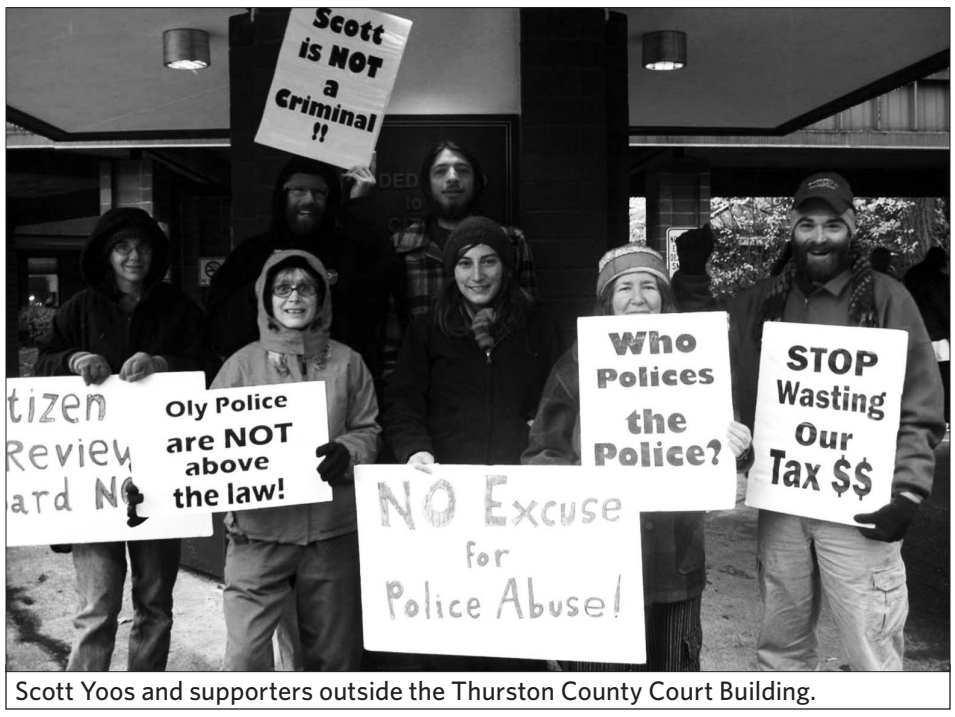
Think about it: it is still laughable to consider the possibility of GW Bush and Barack Obama being put on trial for the torture, warrantless detention, or the innumerable murders that have been ordered on their watch. Was there ever a moment when someone thought that President Obama would order the punishment and reprimands of rogue bankers, or the arrest of CEOs who authorized their staff to push toxic mortgages or carry out irresponsible trades that eroded the pensions and life-savings of everyday working people? The evidence of widespread fraud and misconduct is widely available. But in an oligarchy, the prosecution of elites is left to the fantasies of action movies.

Why then are we surprised that the chickens have come home to roost? We have become accustomed to police and army brutality around the world. We have stopped protesting it to a large extent, in part because our sentiments have been mocked (witness the most recent endorsement of the president by the SEIU, with its promiscuous cooptation of OWS rhetoric). We have stopped, if we ever did, seeing the connections between the gluttonous disemboweling of the economic security and safety nets once available to the lower and middle-classes, and the war on immigrants. At a basic level, the latter is a distraction from the former: "Hey, look, a foreigner is taking your job," says Congress, while they are being paid off by Wall Street bankers to prevent the passing of legislation that would protect pensions, salaries, and benefits of working folks from being plundered. Similarly, we have refused to make the links between the persecution and torture of Muslim men in the name of "fighting terrorism," and the ever-greater harassment of US citizens: "We need to track devious elements for your safety." We vote for these folks continually, and then are shocked when the same spurious logic is turned against American citizens.

We are shocked by the police brutality of Dorli Rainey and the Occupy Davis protestors because they are guilty of nothing but loud political dissent. Why then should we not revisit our suspicions of the unproven assertions of the criminal tendencies of millions of men and women around the world and here in the US? We need to see through the aspersions that have been unceasingly cast by the United States government, the 1%, and their minions in order to justify their assaults, brutality, and murderous actions? It's an Empire State of Mind, not only abroad but increasingly here at home. And the way to dismantle an Empire State of Mind is to revisit our assumptions about the targets of violence and brutality. If brutality can be leveled at American students wrongly, then we need to accept that it's been meted out unfairly in the Wars on Iraq, Afghanistan, Terror, and Latino migrants, among others.

We shouldn't be shocked. We should, however, continue to be outraged: the War on OWS, the War on Terror, and the War on Immigrants, are all part and parcel of an Empire State of Mind. We need to consider that each of these wars is equally dubious, intended to distract US by casting a spurious guilt on political dissenters, the working-class, the unemployed, the foreclosed, and other innocent civilians. This is the most basic step needed to resist those state officials, the 1%, and their minions who plunder the government coffers, our taxes, our bank accounts, our equity, our homes, and our livelihood and security, while pretending that their theft and their brutality is conducted for our protection.

Falguni A. Sheth is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Political Theory at Hampshire College. She is the author of Toward a Political Philosophy of Race (SUNY, 2009), explores state-driven racial divisions and persecution. She was formerly an Immigrant Rights Commissioner of San Francisco.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Scott Yoos and supporters outside the Thurston County Court Building.

WIP News Shorts

Olympia Food Co-op Board Election Results

After a late night of verifying and counting ballots, the Olympia Food Co-op welcomes three new noard members: Cezanne Murphy-Levesque, Joshua Simpson and Joseph Webster and returning Board member Rob Richards for his second term. The Co-op received 434 valid ballots, plus 47 that were unable to be counted due to inactive or unverifiable membership status. All votes were verified by two separate counts.

The final count was:

Cezanne Murphy-Levesque 275
Joshua Simpson 274
Rob Richards 256
Joseph Webster 241
Allyson Ruppenthal 232
Keith Dublanica 172

Bank Transfer Day

In the four weeks leading up to November 5, and in response to a national campaign calling for people to remove funds from for-profit banking institutions, about 700,000 Americans shifted $4,580,000,000 in deposits to not-for-profit credit unions that strive to promote economic growth in local communities. Visit: www.banktransferday.org.

Move Your Money

Little has changed to prevent another financial crisis or to end "Too Big To Fail," and Congress appears unwilling to act. The Move Your Money project is a nonprofit campaign that encourages individuals and institutions to divest from the nation's largest Wall Street banks and move to local financial institutions. The campaign gives people concrete actions they can take to create a more sane, stable and localized banking system. But not all community banks or credit unions are risk-free—some of them got involved in the same risky behavior that took down some of the biggest banks. The folks at HelloWallet.org have donated a tool to search for sound and local banks and credit unions. Visit www.moveyourmoneyproject.org and click on "find a bank/credit union."

Bradley Manning Gets His Day In Court

After 560 days of pretrial confinement, including 250 days spent in solitary conditions, the U.S. Army has announced that PFC Bradley Manning—the former Army intelligence specialist accused of releasing classified material to WikiLeaks—is scheduled for a Pretrial Hearing to begin on December 16 in Fort Meade, Maryland. This will be PFC Manning's first appearance before a court and the first time he will face his accusers. In a recent blog post, Manning's lead counsel, David Coombs, notified supporters that the pretrial phase is scheduled to last five days. With the exception of those limited times where classified information is being discussed, the hearing will be open to the public. Coombs indicates that the primary purpose of the Article 32 hearing is to evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of the government's case, as well as to provide the defense with an opportunity to obtain pretrial discovery. The defense is entitled to call witnesses during the hearing and to also cross-examine the government's witnesses. Each witness who testifies is placed under oath; their testimony can therefore be used during the trial for impeachment purposes or as prior testimony should the witness become unavailable.

For more information, visit: www.bradleymanning.org.

WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to
olywip@gmail.com or
Works In Progress
PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Regularly held events

PFLAG Olympia
2nd Sunday, 1-4 PM
First United Methodist Church
224 Legion Way SE in Olympia

Winter Party/White Elephant Gift Exchance It's a pop luck party. Bring some little snack, if you can, and a wrapped present. Keep it cheap and simple. Regift the thing you hated from last year. Everybody gets to pick and gift and steal gifts from each other. It's all in fun. Please come.

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30pm

Readings operate on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Details/requirements are complicated so check out the Last Word Books website for more information. http://www.lastwordbooks.org

Drinking Liberally
1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 pm
Bally Hoo Irish Pub & Restaurant
316 Schmidt Place, Tumwater

Local chapter of loosely structured national organization dedicated to discussion of liberal and progressive politics.

Eloquent Jazz Latin Escapes with Momenti Rubati
Live Jazz every Monday, 7 pm
The Royal Lounge
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

This special gathering of music lovers meets together to experience the magic and excitement of the Momenti Rubati. Live music unites a community together for festive enjoyment and social fun. We invite you to meet with us, make new friends and relax to the beautiful sounds of the Momenti Rubati. 705-0760 No charge.

"Around Thurston County"
Thurston County Television (TCTV)
Channel 22
Mondays, 6:30PM, Fridays, 5:00PM
(Locally produced civil affairs show with a progressive perspective).
Info: Patrickbabineau@comcast.net

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies
Providence Health Int'l / CHUMA,
2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 14. CHUMA Int'l (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries.

Supplies are sent to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda/ other countries. Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

F.O.R. TV Program
Mondays at 1:30 pm
Thursdays at 9:00pm
Channel 22 - TCTV

If you live outside of Thurston County or if you don't have cable TV, you can watch over 60 of Fellowship Of Reconciliation's recent TV programs on your computer! Visit www.olympiafor.org then click the link for TV Programs and click any program you want to watch.

Memoir Writing Group
Tuesdays, 1-3 PM
State Capitol Museum,
211 21st Ave SW, Olympia,
360-753-2580

The Memoir Writing Group at the State Capital Museum explores the past through writing and assembling their memoirs. Led by Delores Kelso Nelson, a writer and teacher in the Olympia area for over 15 years, the memoir class serves participants by igniting lost memories, supporting practicing memoir writers, and offering a chance to socialize. Cost is $6 per class or 5 classes for $24

Peace Vigil
NW corner of Sylvester Park
Wednesdays 12 pm: Legion & Capitol

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1980. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays 1:00-3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia

The YWCA Other Bank provides free hygiene and cleaning supplies to families in need -- items that can not be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. 360-352-0593

PLEASE DONATE! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups
Wednesdays -- 705-2738
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group
7-9pm for 18+ group.

An organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. www.stonewallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)
Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Larry 866-2404 lmosque-da@comcast.net

"The Veterans Hour," locally produced by Veterans for Peace
Thurston County TV (TCTV) - Ch. 22
Wednesdays, 5 pm
Fridays, 9-10 pm

Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

"Parallel University"
Thursdays, 12 - 1 pm:
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/

Informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Women in Black
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm:
W. 4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a network of women committed to peace with justice. Info: Karin 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Percival Landing Peace Vigil
Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to come to witness for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998.
491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Bread and Roses
Saturdays, 1-5 PM
1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia

We have food garden! If you have a pickup truck, have yard tools to loan, are passionate about organic gardening or local food security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please join us! There are many ways to be involved. Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses' volunteer hosts serve a gourmet meal Saturday evenings. http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org 754-4085

Community Special Events

Pay What You Can Dine Out at The New Moon Cafe
Wednesday, Nov 30, 7 am - 2:30 pm
The New Moon Café
113 4th Ave W, Olympia

Come support positive social change just by enjoying a bite at one of Olympia's favorite cafe's! Pay what you can day! Proceeds will support violence prevention activities and victims services provided by Partners in Prevention Education!

SHARE THIS WITH ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS!

Steps to Make Downtown Olympia Safer for ALL!
Partners in Prevention Education
Wednesday, Nov 30, 12:30 until 4pm
317 E. 4th Ave., 4th Floor, Olympia

One of the Council's 2011 top priorities is "To create a safer and more welcoming downtown for ALL."

PiPE wants to ensure that the voices of youth and our local homeless community have a voice in this creation! Join us and Ruth Snyder, from the City of Olympia for this walking tour to take stock of downtown Olympia and give feedback about how it could be "safer and more welcoming for ALL"! For more info, please visit the City's website at: http://olympiawa.gov/documents/CouncilPackets/20110801/OB_DTProjectWkPlnSTF.pdf

We'll meet at the PiPE office and head over to join Ruthie for the Place Making Walkabout Tours just before 1:00 pm

Get Bucks: for incarcerated youth on Westbay Drive!
Friday, December 2, 3 pm until 11 pm
1325 West Bay Drive, Olympia

This is a fundraiser for books. Don't bring books. bring bucks.

Featuring Live Art by CROFT.

Performances by: Hot Fruit, Campus & the Hottie, Arun Chandra & Lizzie Clauss, Sunshine & Irony, Ghost Feet, Brian McCracken, Garlic Man & Chikn, Oryx S., all the honeys....

$5-7 Suggested donation.

December 2nd Episode of Dance Oly Dance with DJ PhilosoBitch
Friday, December 2, 2011.
8:00pm until 9:00pm.
TCTV studio "A"
440 Yauger Way SW, Olympia
Comcast bldg across from Capital Medical

Hello beautiful dancers of Olympia! It's the December 2nd episode of Dance Oly Dance with DJ PhilosoBitch.

In case you don't know what it's about, here's a sample from a previous episode: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbwZwGj8gD8

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour
Saturday, December 3, 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 4, 6:00 pm
Olympia's Capitol Theater

Ignite your passion for adventure, travel and action! Journey to exotic locations and experience distant cultures at the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. Different films shown each night.

Tickets available at The Alpine Experience and Olympic Outfitters in downtown Olympia (360) 956-1699, online at www.brownpapertickets.com or at the box office.

- $13 for Saturday (no discounts)
- $11 on Sunday (Mountaineers, OFS Members and Students & Military with ID get $2 off)
- Purchase both Night and Save:
  - $22 for General Audience
  - $20 for Mountaineers, OFS Members and Students with ID

This stop on the world tour is hosted by The Mountaineers, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, in partnership with the Olympia Film Society, The Alpine Experience and Olympic Outfitters.

Video Trailer for this Year's Films: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHDGv1RR2v4

ArtPOWER!
Saturday, December 3, 12 until 6 pm
Olyphant Art Supply
117 Washington St. NE, Olympia

POWER hosts ArtPOWER, its annual arts and crafts sale. Come support local artists! 50% of proceeds go to artists; the other goes to POWER's work toward a world where children and caregiving are valued and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

Musical performances by Vince Brown and Quinn Russell!

We're still looking for arts and crafts donations! Please contact us at 360-352-9716 or poweroutletplugin@gmail.com

Stories of Finding a New Home In collaboration with Out of the Woods
Playback Theatre Performance
Friday, December 9, 7:30 pm
Traditions Café -- 300 5th Ave. SW, Olympia

Out of theWoods, a non-profit organization provides round-the-clock services for homeless families with children. Since 2006, Out ofthe Woods has achieved great success in helping families break the cycle ofhomelessness, one family at a time.

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue.

Suggested donation $5-10 No one turned away.

Bridges Not Walls Olympia meeting
Sunday, December 11, 4 pm
MIXX 96 building, State and Washington

Bridges Not Walls addresses issues of immigration in our community. Immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve to be treated with dignity. We seek to make our communities a place where the contributions of immigrants are valued and respected. We oppose the fear and intimidation created by immigration enforcement in our region. Therefore, we work in solidarity with the immigrant communities in our area to promote human rights, economic rights and civil rights for all people.

Call 943-8642 for more information.

Vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma
Saturday, December 17, 11 am

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, Bridges Not Walls holds a vigil at the Northwest Detention Center. Carpool to leave Olympia at 11 am from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural at Capitol and State, and returns about 5pm.

The NWDC houses up to 1500 detainees and is run by GEO Group, a for-profit corporation that consumes $150,000 of taxpayers' taxes each night that it's full.

Bring coffee and food to support families visiting their locked-up loved ones; come and also protest a failed immigration policy.

Email bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net or call (503) 970-3399 for more information on what to bring (and what not to bring).

Spend No Money Day
Friday, December 23, 12 am - 11:30pm
Anywhere In the USA

It's time to take America back from the criminals who are in power! why should we have to endure a double-dip recession & hyperinflation? Let's wake people up to the fact American currency is not real...it's not even backed by the u.s. government... it's backed by the federal reserve which is a privately owned & crooked for-profit corporation!

The Green Party of Washington State Winter Gathering
January 28, 2112, 9am to 5pm
Tumwater Friends Meeting House

The theme is sustainability, with a panel of speakers on the coming crisis and how to create a self-reliant community.

The evening features Nicole Foss, internationally recognized speaker on energy and finance, at the Boston Harbor Friends Meeting House, from 7 to 9 PM. Please join us.

Protest Medical Marijuana Raids

Thursday, December 1

10 am - 1 pm

The first rally will be held at Lacey City Hall. Lacey Cross Dispensary has court that day. They are challenging the city of Lacey for their right to stay open and they will absolutely need our presence. This will be a huge day and we need everyone to show up and support the cause. If the dispensary stays shutdown this will directly harm the patients. This is very important day, A day that we hope to make history. Remember, one team, one dream.

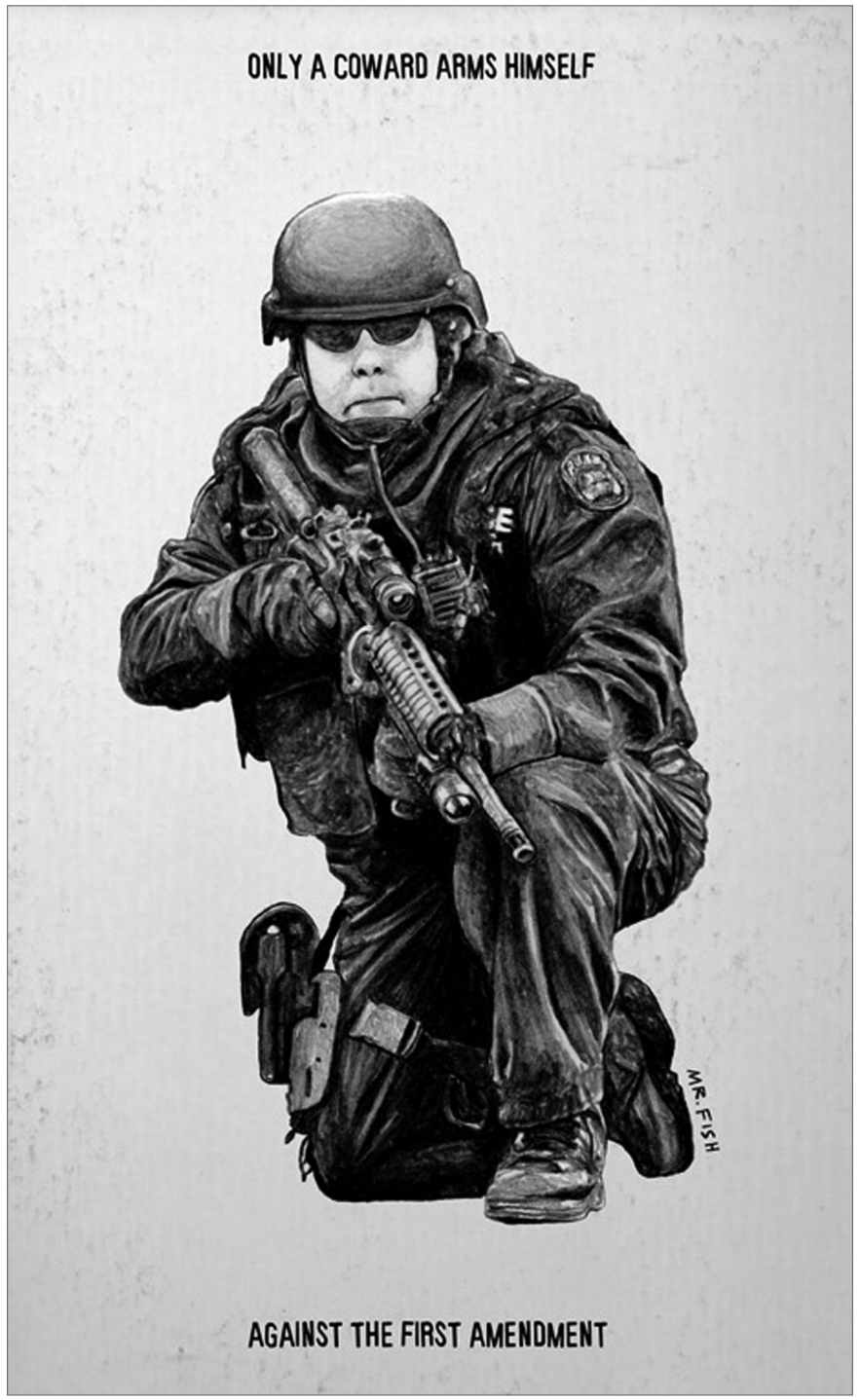
--Sensible Thurston County

Capitol occupiers, send your submissions to *Works In Progress*

This issue of *Works in Progress* went to press as the week of action began at the state Capitol, organized by Occupy Olympia and other groups from across the state to protest Washington state budget cuts in the special session.

We look forward to hearing what you thought of the week of protest; please submit any photo, artwork, or writing inspired by the week and the Occupy Olympia movement in general.

Please send all submissions to:
olywip@gmail.com



Massive Rally at the Capitol!

Saturday, December 3, 11:00 am

Join community organizations and people from all across Washington state to demand that legislators oppose more cuts, tax the rich, and call on the federal government to end US wars and redirect trillions in military spending to state budgets! Coordinated by FUSE (fusewashington.org)

December 2011 **FREE**

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.

Stop oppressive budget cuts

Building a local legislative solidarity movement

Welfare Cuts for Dummies

The human impact of state budget cuts

A never-ending story

Olympia's anti-busking ordinance